

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Town of Laurel, Delaware
and the
Delaware Office of State Planning Coordination**

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware has determined that certain local land use decisions have far reaching and complex effects on the region, resulting in development which often requires the commitment of finite resources by the various levels of government as well as private investors; and

WHEREAS, coordinated review of certain development proposals is expected to result in a more efficient, effective and timely use of resources and improved consistency and coordination between the various levels of government and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS, under Title 29, Chapter 92 of the Delaware Code, local land use planning actions by local governments are subject to pre-application review processes, referred to as the Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) and administered by the Office of State Planning Coordination (OSPC); and

WHEREAS, under Title 29, Section 9205 (c) of the Delaware Code, the OSPC shall, through a Memorandum of Understanding, exempt a local jurisdiction from the provisions of the Land Use Planning Act or modify the pre-application process when the local jurisdiction has a Certified Comprehensive Plan and imposes a more stringent review of projects;


NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD by and between Town of Laurel, Delaware and the Office of State Planning Coordination as follows:

- A. Nothing in this agreement shall be construed to deny Town of Laurel its final decision making authority over proposed land use planning actions in the corporate limits of Town of Laurel. Additionally, any comments received from state agencies, pursuant to Title 29, Chapter 92 of the Delaware Code, shall not exempt applicants from the responsibility of meeting all requirements set forth in Town of Laurel's adopted land use regulations.**
- B. The following land use planning actions are and shall remain subject to State review under Title 29, Chapter 92, Delaware Code:**
 - 1 Residential subdivisions or land development containing 100 or more dwelling units.**
 - 2. Any non-residential subdivisions or site plan involving new construction of structures or buildings with a total floor area equal to or exceeding 50,000 square feet.**

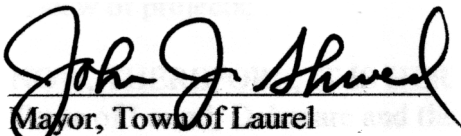
3. Any application for rezoning or annexation that is inconsistent with the land use recommendations set forth in the current certified Town of Laurel Comprehensive Plan.
 4. Any local land use regulation, ordinance or requirement may be referred to the Office of State Planning Coordination by Town of Laurel for the purpose of providing the Town with advisory comments. These include the modifications to the Town's zoning and subdivision ordinances that implement the Comprehensive Plan.
 5. Any development project voluntarily submitted by the developer to the Office of State Planning Coordination for review.
 6. Any development project may be referred by the Town Manager or by majority vote of Laurel Planning Commission to the Office of State Planning Coordination for review. A written justification will be required for any project that does not meet the criteria established in Section B (1) through B (3) of the Memorandum. Reasons for such a referral might include such factors as environmental features on or around the project site, potential road or traffic impacts of the project, or other significant issues of interest to the State or region.
 7. Any other projects which is required to be referred to the State for pre-application review by the Town of Laurel regulations.
 8. Any amendment, modification or update to Town of Laurel's Comprehensive Plan, as required by Title 22 of the Delaware Code.
- C. The Office of State Planning Coordination shall not initiate the Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) review process for an applicant's project within the incorporated limits of the Town of Laurel prior to the applicant's consultation with the Town of Laurel.
- D. Town of Laurel shall, at the time of their pre-application meeting with applicants, identify those projects meeting the criteria defined in this agreement for State review, direct applicants whose projects meet State review criteria to submit necessary documents to the Office of State Planning Coordination in order to initiate the Preliminary Land Use Service (PLUS) review process, and not accept applications for those projects requiring PLUS review until such time as the Office of State Planning Coordination has issued comments, as defined in Title 29, Section 9204 (c) of the Delaware code, to the applicant and Town of Laurel.
- E. In special circumstances, the Office of State Planning Coordination may waive the pre-application requirements of Title 29m Chapter 92 of the Delaware Code. Where such waiver is granted, the Office of State Planning
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Coordination shall provide a written explanation of the causes for the waiver to the relevant local jurisdiction and the applicant. These circumstances may include, but are not limited to, a local government's imposition of a more stringent review of projects enumerated in §9203 (a) than required by Title 29, Chapter 92 of the Delaware Code, and/or projects expected to provide an extraordinary benefit to the State and the local jurisdiction through economic development, job creation, educational opportunities, public services or facilities, agricultural preservation, or protection and enhancement of the natural environment.


- F. The Office of State Planning Coordination will notify the Town of Laurel of any land use planning action that is submitted to the OSPC for State review and lies within the potential growth and annexation area depicted in the Town of Laurel's certified comprehensive plan.
- G. This Memorandum of Understanding may be revised from time to time as circumstances warrant, only with the concurrence of both Town of Laurel and the Office of State Planning Coordination.


Town Manager, Town of Laurel
Laurel, Delaware

4/7/05
Date


Mayor, Town of Laurel
Laurel, Delaware

April 7, 2005
Date


Constance C. Holland, Director
Office of State Planning Coordination

April 20, 2005
Date